

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3800

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit political action committees from making contributions or expenditures for the purpose of influencing elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 1996

Mr. WAMP introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Oversight

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit political action committees from making contributions or expenditures for the purpose of influencing elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pure Congress Act
5 of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. BAN ON ACTIVITIES OF POLITICAL ACTION COM-**
 2 **MITTEES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Election
 4 Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) is amended
 5 by adding at the end the following new section:

6 “BAN ON FEDERAL ELECTION ACTIVITIES BY POLITICAL
 7 ACTION COMMITTEES

8 “SEC. 323. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any
 9 other provision of this Act, no political action committee
 10 may make contributions, solicit or receive contributions,
 11 or make expenditures for the purpose of influencing an
 12 election for Federal office.

13 “(b) POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE DEFINED.—In
 14 this section, the term ‘political action committee’ means
 15 any political committee which is not—

16 “(1) the principal campaign committee of a
 17 candidate; or

18 “(2) a national, State, local, or district commit-
 19 tee of a political party, including any subordinate
 20 committee thereof.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section
 22 301(4)(A) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 431(4)(A)) is amended
 23 by inserting after “persons” the following: “(but not in-
 24 cluding a partnership for purposes of section 323(b))”.

25 (2) Section 316(b)(2) of such Act (2 U.S.C.
 26 441b(b)(2)) is amended—

1 (A) by adding “and” at the end of subpara-
2 graph (A);

3 (B) by striking “; and” at the end of subpara-
4 graph (B) and inserting a period; and

5 (C) by striking subparagraph (C).

6 (c) RULES APPLICABLE WHEN BAN NOT IN EF-
7 FECT.—For purposes of the Federal Election Campaign
8 Act of 1971, during any period occurring after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act in which the limitation under
10 section 323 of that Act (as added by subsection (a)) is
11 not in effect—

12 (1) the amendments made by subsections (a)
13 and (b) shall not be in effect; and

14 (2) it shall be unlawful for any person that
15 would be treated as a political action committee
16 under section 323 of such Act if such amendments
17 were in effect to make contributions to any can-
18 didate, authorized committee of a candidate, political
19 committee established and maintained by a national
20 political party, or any other political committee for
21 any election aggregating in excess of the limitations
22 applicable under such Act to contributions made by
23 persons other than political committees to a can-
24 didate or any such committee.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPEDITED COURT REVIEW.**

2 (a) **RIGHT TO BRING ACTION.**—The Federal Election
3 Commission, a political committee under title III of the
4 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, or any individual
5 eligible to vote in any election for the office of President
6 of the United States may institute an action in an appro-
7 priate district court of the United States (including an ac-
8 tion for declaratory judgment) as may be appropriate to
9 construe the constitutionality of section 2 or any amend-
10 ment made by such section.

11 (b) **HEARING BY THREE-JUDGE COURT.**—Upon the
12 institution of an action described in subsection (a), a dis-
13 trict court of three judges shall immediately be convened
14 to decide the action pursuant to section 2284 of title 28,
15 United States Code. Such action shall be advanced on the
16 docket and expedited to the greatest extent possible.

17 (c) **APPEAL OF INITIAL DECISION TO SUPREME**
18 **COURT.**—An appeal may be taken directly to the Supreme
19 Court of the United States from any interlocutory order
20 or final judgment, decree, or order issued by the court of
21 3 judges convened pursuant to subsection (b) in an action
22 described in subsection (a). Such appeal shall be brought
23 not later than 20 days after the issuance by the court of
24 the judgment, decree, or order.

25 (d) **EXPEDITED REVIEW BY SUPREME COURT.**—The
26 Supreme Court shall accept jurisdiction over, advance on

- 1 the docket, and expedite to the greatest extent possible
- 2 an appeal taken pursuant to subsection (c).

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